

summer was dry. Mistakes were frequent; difficulties many. Discuss some of them as they affected you. Tell us how you overcome obstacles and what you learned which would help you over another such a year. Get your copy here by November 25.

2. The Literary Society.

This is a big and important question. Every community should have such an organization but many haven't. Tell readers of its value. Explain how it is managed and methods used in starting it as well as how interest is maintained. Do you have debates? Are short addresses successful? There is room in this subject for the expression of new ideas. Get copy here by December 9 for this topic.

3. The Farmer's Club.

This is a topic for many of our readers. What was said about the Literary Society applies to this topic. Outline the organization the operation and benefits of the Farmer's Club in your community. Give suggestions as to its improvement. Copy should be in our hands by December 16.

4. Field Crop Competitions.

This is a big subject and one in which hundreds of our young men are interested. Tell us frankly what you think of field crop competitions, the rules, the judging, the effect upon crop production. If any improvements are necessary suggest them. Copy should reach us not later than December 23.

We announce these four topics. We have more in mind and one will be added to the list each week. We hope scores of our readers get in these discussions. The more who enter the greater the good we shall accomplish. Watch this column and help make it more valuable. It is the young farmer's special column and no one would like to see the older men put up better material than the young farmers. Write and get paid for writing. Write and do good.

School Fair Effects.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The question has been raised of the unfavorable result of disappointment upon those pupils unsuccessful in school fair competitions. The point is important and deserves consideration because though often quickly forgotten these things loom large and are keenly felt for the time by the junior. Ringside observers at the big exhibitions know, however, that mature and seasoned competitors to whom the desired ribbons do not fall, sometimes reveal a susceptibility like that of the youthful amateur. Had they begun earlier they might possibly have been schooled to greater show-ring forbearance. To endure reverse with patience is not the least valuable of school lessons, and some pupils in nearly every class promotion examination must witness others advance to another form and see them there for a whole term, while they retrace their course through the old book and familiar but unmastered exercises. Unpleasant it is but to their final good educationally it may prove. The race is not always to the early swift. Then, the school fair disappointment is not so serious as one might suppose, because of the variety of stirring events and also for the reason that the numerous classes and extended sections enable a great many youngsters to share in the winnings. From my observation I would think it advisable perhaps that the groups of schools participating should not be over large and inconvenient. The educational resourcefulness of those who direct these fairs and the teachers will ensure variety of features, and yet continuity in essay writing, raising products from home-grown seed or home-reared poultry for example. As in field sports like baseball, so the individual school will likely do best that plans and prepares early and observes what is known as "team work." In conjunction with teachers and the district director or representative responsible, pupils will desire such provision and regard for decorum, rules and their property shown that isolated cases of disturbing exhibits through any "undesirable" spirit will be conspicuously absent. The fear has been expressed that the school fair might encroach upon the interest of the township fall exhibition. The reverse seems likely to be the case. It provides a wholesome stimulant to the latter and trains a large number of young people in the production and display of meritorious articles of growth or handiwork, who later on will infuse new blood among the managers and competitors of the agricultural shows. At one school fair I visited, a very marked feature of the attendance was the large number of young men and young farmers present. They and others were agreeably surprised at the skill and knowledge disclosed in products and collections of technical work with weeds, etc., that would have done no discredit to experts. Educationally the school fair idea rests upon the sound principle of providing for and giving direction to the physical as well as intellectual activities of young people, a most desirable diversion from a too bookish curriculum of studies. It is but just to say that in the course of a good many years' observation of rural school movements no effort appears to have so awakened and quickened the practical interest of pupils in the ways of nature and the things of the farm and farm-home as the school fair. No doubt professional educationists themselves will cheerfully extend to leaders in the service of the Department of Agriculture the share of credit and the co-operation which is their due.

ON THE WING.

Sidelights on Fall Fairs.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Now that the Fall Fairs are over and directors are being appointed for another year it may not be out of place to make some suggestions.

In a part of Western Ontario horse-racing has become one of the chief features of Fall Fairs. Indeed I think that the tendency is in this direction in many parts of Ontario. I speak however with reference to one fair that I have attended for a number of years. It is a centre for a very large district and draws a large crowd. Here horse-racing is made the main feature of the day. The track is made fairly large in order to be suitable for speeding. They have each year two races with three heats in each. Of the horses taking part few, if any of them, are bred in the district for the district is given over to the raising of heavy horses almost entirely. This means that the horse racing is not in any real sense a display of farm products for the district. The people can have very little interest in it except that we all have more or less liking for a contest in endurance.

Now for my part I think that a Fall Fair to be really beneficial should be a display of the products of the community. The idea of a Fall Fair is not merely to amuse the people. One great benefit of it is that it lets one man know what the other is doing and horse racing under these conditions does not do this. Hence it does not involve competition in the raising of home products. Another great benefit of the Fair is that it brings country and town people together letting the town people see what the country people are doing. Horse racing as above does not do this. It ought also to educate.

It does not do these things because where there is horse racing there is little else in view. A fair that runs, as this one does, from about 1.30 p. m. to 5.30 p. m. and runs off six heats three times around the track in that time does not leave room for much else, especially when it takes about five minutes each time to get rightly started. The track is engaged almost all the time, either racing horses or warming them up for the race. The result is that the large display of

ment the local paper in publishing an account of the School Fair mentioned the one fact that it was made interesting by a good horse race. It then gave the names of the winners, both the drivers and the horses. None of the other exhibits were mentioned.

That is educating the farmers' sons wrongly. It is also disastrous to the Fall Fair. Many of our best people have told me they were disgusted with it. I would like very much to see it remedied for I fear the tendency is in this direction in many places. The case I mention is in one of our best farming districts in a neighboring county to your own Middlesex.

Elgin Co., Ont.

A. R. Mac.

THE DAIRY.

Another Letter on the Ottawa Milk Question.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

When you are right defend the right; but when you are wrong the proper thing to do is to admit it, and make no bones about it.

B. Rothwell, President of the Ottawa Dairy, Ltd., is right and I was wrong. The figures he furnishes re milk taken from the company's wagons during September by the Ottawa Board of Health, prove that while the Dairy demands a butter test of 35 from shippers, it gives its customers milk testing considerably better than 35—sometimes more than 4 per cent.—which is accounted for, of course, in the fact that a great deal of the milk shipped in by producers tests quite a bit better than even 4 per cent.

The source, usually reliable, from which I obtained the figures given in my former article was plainly wrongly informed, but I quoted in good faith and now admit the error and make the correction wholeheartedly. I have no desire to injure the Ottawa Dairy, and my reference to it was brief, but it contained enough *acqua fortis* to stir up righteous resentment. These things will sometimes happen in spite of care to avoid them.

You cannot always get your information first hand, or strictly reliable. It is the policy of every reputable journal and all decent writers to freely make "the amende honorable" when a reputation is at stake, if the party assailed produces evidence of error. There was so much "hot stuff" bandied about during Ottawa's furore over the price of milk, and so many allegations, denials and corrections, that a writer on the subject did well to be right in his quotations fifty-one per cent. of the time. So, as a witty Irishman remarked on a similar occasion, "If there's anything I've done that I'm sorry for, I'm willing to be forgiven."

Mr. Rothwell says my statement that the Ottawa Dairy "paid dividends amounting to 46 per cent." is not true. The words I used were "dividends and bonuses." At the mass meeting held in the Ottawa

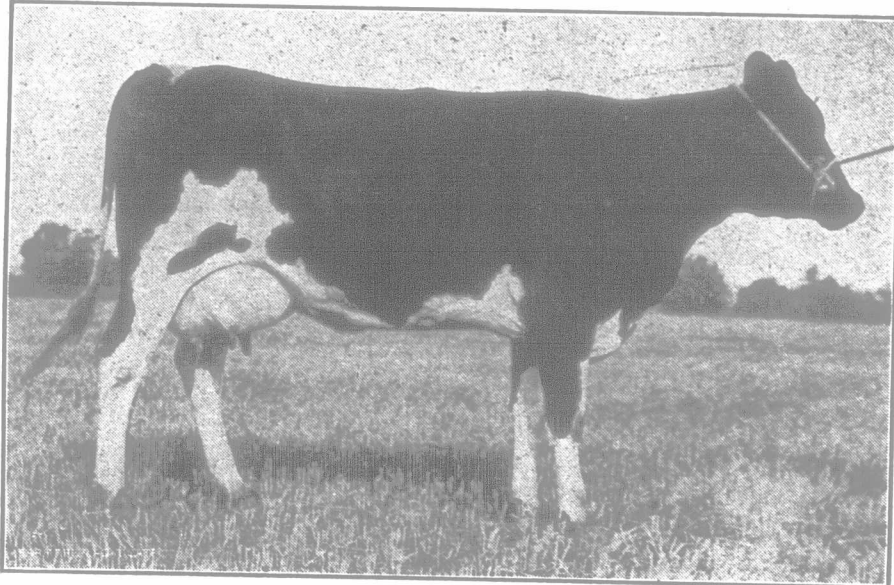
City Hall, August 29th, to prevent the price of milk from increasing, Alderman Muir, who led the revolt and called the meeting, is thus reported (Ottawa Journal Aug. 30):

"Ald. Muir referred to an article in an Ottawa newspaper to the effect that the Ottawa Dairy Company was paying a dividend of 22 per cent. to its shareholders."

"George Hopper, a milk producer, denied this. "Ald. Muir declared warmly that if such a dividend was paid the company members had no right to it under existing conditions. He stated that it had been said that owners of preferred stock received two shares of common stock, making their dividend 51 per cent., taking that into consideration."

The Ottawa Citizen of August 26 quotes what it calls "some highly interesting statements from a shareholder of the Ottawa Dairy Company, one of the leading citizens of the city, whose name, for obvious reasons, is withheld for the present. This gentleman, having a thorough knowledge of the milk business, is in a position to know what he is talking about."

"The Dairy Company's profits, he declared, are large in comparison with those of the farmer, and in this connection some high lights are thrown on the financial operations of that corporation since it came into existence. One of the allegations he makes is that a few years ago when the company took out a Dominion charter its dividends were 16 per cent. on the common stock. This bonanza was reduced to more reasonable-looking proportions by the stock-watering process of calling in the common stock and issuing two shares of new stock for every one of the old. It is interesting to note that this method was a leaf out of the book of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company. When that corporation's returns became



Ardelia DeKol Tensem, 13700.

Canadian champion two-year-old in the eight-months-after-calving division with 19.02 lbs. butter. In the R. O. P. test she gave as a two-year-old 16,704.6 lbs. milk and 835.37 lbs. butter, but did not freshen in time to qualify. Official record at 6 years, 29.28 lbs. butter in seven days.

heavy and light horses is judged out in the centre of the large ring scarcely ever making an appearance on the outside ring. The crowd are not likely to look past a racing horse to see a fine Clydesdale class judged, but I feel that they would get more real benefit if they did. The trouble is that the obstruction should not be there.

Away off in a corner of the yard are two or three large pens where droves of cattle are herded together and judged without ever being led into a ring and sometimes without even being separated from the herd. I have seldom if ever seen twenty men watching the judging at one time. Sheep and hogs are judged in much the same indifferent fashion.

Now I am not writing to condemn horse racing but under these conditions I do condemn it. The six horses that won money in those two races carried off a large percentage of the money given for prizes and they were an ill lot to look at. They held the attention of the crowd while they might have got a good education in stock judging and an inspiration to go home and do better things. The people went home without getting any real benefit from their afternoon off.

If we must have racing with regular race carts and race harness put it by itself on a separate day. At least give the Fall Fair an appearance of being a Farmer's Fair or better still a Community Fair, including the products of the village. In this day of ours when we seem to need so much amusement we are apt to forget that we need education as well.

I was driven to write this because I see how this district is being educated by this sort of Fall Fair. We had a very good School Fair this year. There were some excellent exhibits but the directors of it were not content without having a horse race, which almost ended disastrously for one of the boys. To my amazement

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